

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 L-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

RSC-01 /019 R

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R 182351Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO CSAF WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK, GN

SUBJECT: PHOENIX ISLANDS

REF: STATE 187830, 17 NOV 70

1. AIR FORCE HAS INFORMED US THAT TRAINING SHIP TERAACA, HOME PORT TARAWA, LANDED, WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTICE TO USAF, SUBSTANTIAL PARTY ON HULL ISLAND BEFORE NOON, OCTOBER 15. PARTY RE-EMBARKED AND DEPARTED MORNING OCTOBER 16. PARTY INCLUDED NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC AND OTHER PERSONNEL WITH STATED PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ECONOMIC ASSETS OF ISLANDS, INCLUDING FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL. VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE UPON AUTHORIZATION OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY (GEIC) AND BY DIRECTION OF SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES.

2. AS EMBASSY AWARE AIR FORCE MAINTAINS CONTINUOUS PRESENCE ON HULL ISLAND IN CONNECTION WITH RADAR SITE AUTHORIZED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US-UK AGREEMENT OF NOVEMBER 1970 (REF A). RADAR SITE

IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED CANTON BY RADIO WHEREUPON CANTON DISPATCHED A HELICOPTER TO DETERMINE INTENT OF VISITORS. DURING ENSUING DISCUSSION IT DEVELOPED THAT SHIP HAD ALREADY VISITED PHOENIX AND SYDNEY ISLANDS.

3. WE DO NOT QUESTION THE BRITISH RIGHT TO VISIT ISLANDS UNDER CONDITIONS PARA 1 (I) OF AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT OF 14 NOVEMBER 1970, WHICH SPECIFIED THAT OFFICIAL VISITS TO THE ISLANDS WILL NOT BE RESTRICTED. HOWEVER, WE ARE PUZZLED THAT US WAS NOT PROVIDED ADVANCE NOTICE OF MAJOR VISIT OF THIS KIND, PARTICULARLY IN ABSENCE OF ANY PERCEIVED URGENCY FOR SURVEY SINCE US UNDER TERMS OF 1970 AGREEMENT HAS EXCLUSIVE USE AND OCCUPANCY OF HULL ISLAND FOR TEN YEAR PERIOD. IN VIEW OF CONTESTED CLAIMS OF US AND UK TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER PHOENIX ISLAND GROUP WE ALSO WISH TO FORESTALL ANY IMPRESSION GEIC MAY HAVE THAT PHOENIX ISLANDS ARE GEIC ASSETS. ACCORDINGLY EMBASSY REQUESTED TO CALL FCO'S ATTENTION TO FOREGOING. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER ILLUMINATION FCO CAN PROVIDE ON MISSION AND PURPOSE OF TERAACA. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PHOENIX ISLANDS, ISLAND CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JD STODDART:SAFUSI:PHILBERT:ML
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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